

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:  
tuning means (22) for tuning signals including emergency alert signals  
5 associated with said emergency alert function; and  
processing means (26) for enabling a disabled user setting for an auxiliary information display function of said apparatus (20) responsive to said emergency alert signals.

10 2. The apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said auxiliary information display function includes a closed caption display function.

15 3. The apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said processing means (26) further enables an alert output using said auxiliary information display function responsive to said emergency alert signals.

20 4. The apparatus (20) of claim 3, wherein said processing means (26) further disables said user setting for said auxiliary information display function after said alert output is enabled.

25 5. The apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said processing means (26) further enables display of a default screen responsive to said emergency alert signals.

6. The apparatus (20) of claim 5, wherein said default screen is a blue screen.

7. The apparatus (20) of claim 5, wherein:  
said processing means (26) further enables an alert output using said auxiliary information display function responsive to said emergency alert signals; and  
30 said alert output includes a visual message overlaid upon said default screen.

8. A method for controlling an apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

20

tuning signals including emergency alert signals associated with said emergency alert function; and

enabling display of a default screen responsive to said emergency alert signals.

5

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said default screen is a blue screen.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprised of enabling an alert output responsive to said emergency alert signals, and wherein said alert output includes a visual message overlaid upon said default screen.

11. The method of claim 8, further comprised of enabling a disabled user setting for an auxiliary information display function of said apparatus (20) responsive to said emergency alert signals.

15

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said auxiliary information display function includes a closed caption display function.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprised of enabling an alert output using said auxiliary information display function responsive to said emergency alert signals.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprised of disabling said user setting for said auxiliary information display function after said alert output is enabled.

25

15. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a tuner (22) operative to tune signals including emergency alert signals associated with said emergency alert function; and

30 a processor (26) operative to enable a disabled user setting for an auxiliary information display function of said television signal receiver (20) responsive to said emergency alert signals.

<sup>21</sup>

16. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said auxiliary information display function includes a closed caption display function.

17. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said processor 5 (26) is further operative to enable an alert output using said auxiliary information display function responsive to said emergency alert signals.

18. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein said processor 10 (26) is further operative to disable said user setting for said auxiliary information display function after said alert output is enabled.

19. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said processor (26) is further operative to enable display of a default screen responsive to said emergency alert signals.

15

20. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 19, wherein said default screen is a blue screen.

20

21. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 19, wherein:  
said processor (26) is further operative to enable an alert output using said auxiliary information display function responsive to said emergency alert signals; and  
said alert output includes a visual message overlaid upon said default screen.

25